

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 4 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 2 is amended to recite two Rho GTPase activators which include polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequences of sequence SEQ ID NO 1 and of SEQ ID NO 4. SEQ ID NO 1 and SEQ ID NO 4 refer to CNF1 and DNT, respectively. Support for this amendment may be found in the Examples, which illustrate the immunoadjuvant properties of CNF1 and DNT and their catalytic domains.

Claim 3 is amended to recite that the immunoadjuvant compound is selected from the group of CNF1 and DNT. Support for this amendment may be found also in the Examples.

Claim 8 is amended to delete "proteins derived from HIV viruses". However, it is not Applicant's intention to disclaim such proteins.

Claims 9 and 10 are amended as to form.

Claim 15 is amended as suggested in the Official Action, and for clarification the claim has been split into two claims. Claim 15 depends from claim 2, and new claim 17 depends from claim 3.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15 and 17 remain pending.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §112, 1st paragraph

Claims 1, 4, 8-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for not complying with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

Claim 1 was specifically rejected for being too broad, e.g., covering any Rho GTPase activator. Claim 1 is cancelled.

Claim 2 is amended to recite that the Rho GTPase activators are selected from:

- a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence starting at the amino acid residue 720 and ending at the amino acid residue 1014 of sequence SEQ ID NO 1 and
- a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence starting at the amino acid residue 1146 and ending at the amino acid residue 1451 of SEQ ID NO 4.

SEQ ID NO 1 and SEQ ID NO 4 refer to CNF1 and DNT, respectively. That is, Rho GTPase activators are selected from polypeptides comprising the catalytic domain of CNF1 or the catalytic domain of DNT. As the Examples illustrate the immunoadjuvant properties of CNF1 and DNT and their catalytic domains, this claim is believed to comply with the enablement requirement.

Claim 8 was specifically for referring to vaccines drawn to protecting against HIV. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Therefore, the claims are now believed to comply with the enablement requirement, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for not complying with the written description requirement.

This rejection was specifically directed to claim 1.

Therefore, as claim 1 has been cancelled, the pending claims comply with the written description requirement, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph

Claims 1, 4, 8-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

Specifically, the claims were rejected for not including the definitions of DNT and CNF1 are now spelled out in the claims. Accordingly, claim 3 is amended to recite these definitions.

Claim 4 was specifically rejected for the manner in which the sequences were recited, but this claim has been cancelled.

Claim 15 was rejected for reciting "preparing a composition adding" and omitting essential steps. The claim has

been amended as suggested in the Official Action and now explicitly defines a step.

Therefore, the claims are now believed to be definite, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

As the Official Action did not include any art-based rejections and the amendment to the claims are believed to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, this application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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